GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3361
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
LITERACY AMONG SCAVENGERS
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether literacy among the people engaged in scavenging/cleaning works has been suffered from apathy as no study has ever been conducted in several States in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons for not conducting any study in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) &(b) No study on literacy amongst scavengers has been conducted separately. Most of the persons engaged in scavenging belong to Scheduled Castes and literacy rate among Scheduled Castes has improved from 37.41% in 1991 to 54.69% in 2001, as per Census figures.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations, the children of persons engaged in scavenging, tanning, flaying etc. are provided scholarship for pursuing school education upto class X. The scavengers also get benefits under the programmes being run for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes, as majority of them belong to Scheduled Castes.